Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 070842Z OCT 76 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9917 AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, KS, MU

SUBJ: VISIT OF OMAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI

REF: (A) SEOUL 7829, (B) MUSCAT 1123, (C) MUSCAT 1202

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MUN CHU-HWAN, CHIEF, MIDDLE EAST DIVISION, MOFA, OCTOBER 7 AND FOUND THAT OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI'S UNOFFICIAL VISIT HERE SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3 HAD BEEN VERY LOW-KEY. MUN SAID THAT ZAWAWI HAD LENGTHY AND CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THEN ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, YU HA-JONG AND PRIME MINISTER CHOE KYU-HA. MUN, WHO WAS PRESENT, SAID THAT, IN ABSENCE OF UN QUESTION, YUN HAD BRIEFED ZAWAWI ON ROK SITUATION, ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA. OMANIS ARE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO ROK POSITION BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMUNIST NEIGHBOR, YEMEN. MUN SAID ZAWAWI HAD NOT ASKED FOR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR.

2. ROK ANNOUNCED SPETEMBER 28 THAT NEW ROK EMBASSY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN OMAN, AT END OF OCTOBER. MUN TOLD EMBOFF THAT CURRENT CONSUL GENERAL IN HOUSTON, KIM KYONG-GUN, WOULD OPEN EMBASSY, BUT THIS NOT YET ANNOUNCED IN PAPERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HERE. MUM SAID OMAN, STILL GRADUALLY EXPANDING ITS FOREIGN

RELATIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1973, HAS NOT PLANS TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN SEOUL, AND IN FACT AS YET HAS NONE IN TOKYO.

3. MUN SAID YUN AND ZAWAWI MENTIONED EXPANSION OF BI-LATERAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES, AND THAT ZAWAWI TOURED HYONDAI SHIPYARD IN POHANG, ROK INDUSTRIAL SHOWPLACE WHERE HE RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT. OMAN'S 5-YEAR PLAN BEGINS IN 1977, AND ONE OF NEW EMBASSY'S FIRST JOBS WILL BE TO SEE IF KOREAN FIRMS CAN FIND SUITABLE PROJECTS IN IT. STERN

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